

Chairman's Award - Team 4776

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2018 - Team 4776

Team Number

4776

Team Name, Corporate/University Sponsors

S.C.O.T.S. Bots/Ford Motor Company/Delphi/Autodesk, Inc./Dell/Thai Summit America Corporation/Chem-Trend, Inc./ZF TRW/Michigan Dept. of Education/First National Bank of Howell/Grupo Antolin/Hatch Stamping/Automated Control Systems/J.J. Jinkleheimer & Company/Mugg & Bopps Convenience Stores/Five Star Signs/The Home Depot of Howell/Lowe's of Howell/The Howell Education Foundation/The University of Michigan-Flint/Trinity Health/Champion Chevrolet/Tube Right/Crosswinds Aviation/Howell Education Foundation/Howell Public Schools&Howell High School

Briefly describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on team participants with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

We provide unique opportunities for our students that mimic real world engineering and technology. Our team chooses events and opportunities that will positively impact students. These include Engineers Without Borders, Ford Science and Technology classes and Autodesk Fusion CAD training. Our seniors are sent scholarship gazettes, attend workshops, and meet with a scholarship mentor to update their resume and review their scholarship goal. Our graduating seniors have received \$200K in two years

Describe the impact of the *FIRST* program on your community with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

We have hosted 6 events each attracting thousands of visitors. Our collaboration with the library is our most important partnership to date because it promotes lifelong learning within our community. We have developed and taught classes that have made a significant impact by generating a huge interest in STEM and FIRST®. Our website allows for quick updates which makes it easy to keep our information current. Our students also maintain the Twitter and Instagram account and You Tube channel.

Team's innovative or creative method to spread the *FIRST* message

We created and formed a project-based learning group called STEM Sisters, an alliance of talented high school females from S.C.O.T.S. Bots and other local teams. Their mission of promoting STEM to other females can be heard louder and stronger when they work together. These amazing ladies meet monthly to learn about business management, create collaborative team building activities, and develop unique STEM opportunities for themselves and younger females.

Describe examples of how your team members act as role models and inspire other *FIRST* team members to emulate

Our organization works year-round to increase our visibility and foster valuable partnerships within the community. From families to sponsors, our team is passionate about STEM and introducing others to FIRST® Robotics. Community service affords us an opportunity to show our team spirit, spread the mission of FIRST® and give back to the community that supports us. To foster sustainability, all twelve teams are entwined in our Community Outreach activities, and participate together.

Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FRC teams

We've invited students from FLEx Tech, Kensington Woods, & Fowlerville to join our team. We reached out to educators in Fowlerville several times, to start a team, but did not succeed. We've invited teams from Hartland, Corunna, CSA & Fowlerville to our machine shop, CAD training, fundraisers, and kickoffs. We gave the Corunna team an opportunity to sell concessions at our events, and purchased a banner for them. We also helped them seek funding from Autodesk, which yielded a \$10K sponsorship

Describe the team's initiatives to help start or form other FIRST teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, & FTC)

We have slowly transformed the culture in the Howell community by starting 12 teams under the authority of Howell Highlander Robotics. We fully fund and manage 1 FRC team, 2 FTC teams, 4 FLL teams, and 5 Jr FLL teams. We have met with principals at each of the 9 schools to educate them about the mission of FIRST and the philosophy of our organization. We also started FLL teams in Flint, Brighton, and Armada by guiding them through registration and providing them written documents.

Describe the team's initiatives on assisting other FIRST teams (including Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC) with progressing through the FIRST program

In the fall of 2018, the FIRST® LEGO® League and Jr FIRST® LEGO® League teams will transition to the five remaining elementary schools in Howell, and the FIRST® Tech Challenge teams will move to Parker Middle School and Highlander Way Middle School. We are proud to say that this will bring our mutual vision and sustainability plan to fruition.

Describe how your team works with other FIRST teams to serve as mentors to younger or less experienced FIRST teams (includes Jr.FLL, FLL, FTC, & FRC teams)

To promote a culture of students leading students, all 12 teams work together in the machine shop on Sunday. Our high school students mentor the younger teams, volunteer at several events during the year, and teach the younger students line dancing, the FIRST® way. We have also been approved by Sino United to host mentor to a FIRST® Tech Challenge team from China, and are awaiting our assignment. Teams in China a required to apply to their principal which makes the process long and tedious.

Describe your Corporate/University Sponsors

MDE/Ford Motor Company/Autodesk/Delphi/Dell/Thai Summit America Corpo/Hatch Stamping/Mugg & Bopps Convenience Stores/First National Bank Howell/Chem-Trend, Inc./Trinity Health/Grupo Antolin/J.J. Jinkleheimer & Company/ZF TRW/Champion Chevrolet./Automated Control Systems/Five Star Signs/The Home Depot of Howell/The Howell Education Foundation/Tube Right/Lowe's of Howell/UM Flint/Crosswinds Aviation/HPS

Describe the strength of your partnership with your sponsors with special emphasis on the 2017/2018 year and the preceding two to five years

Our sustainability and success is dependent upon support from our sponsors. We strive to maintain, develop, and improve quality partnerships with our sponsors that go beyond financial gain. Partnerships are important to our team, so we take pride in nurturing them. We developed and planned a Lunch and Learn" event with our Chem-Trend partners to inspire their employees to become interested in FIRST®. We also succeeded in obtaining paid summer internships with our sponsors for our alumni.

Describe how your team would explain what FIRST is to someone who has never heard of it

FIRST® Robotics Competition is not all about robots. It's about inspiring and impacting others to become interested in STEM. In FIRST® Robotics, we create a lasting impact on each other, team, school, community, and the world. We explore our passions and work independently to solve problems and make effective decisions. The opportunities provided encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, cultivate valuable partnerships, and teach valuable life skills

Briefly describe other matters of interest to the FIRST judges, if any

Our leadership board submitted a proposal to the superintendent to plan, organize, create, and develop FALCON. It is a community-based FIRST® cooperative alliance founded on the premise that every student is deserving of a STEM education. If approved, FALCON will be mutually beneficial to all local teams by forming a stronger, more centralized, FIRST® alliance. It will promote growth, better competition preparedness, and improved and enhanced opportunities that directly align with our mission.

Team Captain/Student Representative that has double-checked this submission.

Ashlin Niemiec

Essay

S.C.O.T.S. Bots, team 4776 is ready to play the game. How does our team emulate and embody the purpose and goals of FIRST®, while also encouraging others to move into areas of science and technology, building on FIRST'S® culture?

Our team's values can best be represented by the 7 power cubes of FIRST®: K.O.P, Inspiration, Gracious Professionalism, Teamwork, Sponsorships, Scholarships, and Risk-taking. Now it's time to power up and learn how S.C.O.T.S. Bots is an exemplary FIRST® Robotics team.

Our Kit Of Parts is made up of our students, mentors and parents. S.C.O.T.S. Bots started six years ago during the 2013-2014 season as a result of a current mentor's daughter wanting to start a robotics program at Howell High School. From that one desire, the Howell Robotics Program was born. In just six seasons, our program has grown from one team to twelve, spanning grades K-12 we have grown into a district wide robotics family. Leading this family is our mentors who not only help us strive to be better, but also cross-mentor younger teams, spreading ideas to different groups. Having this many teams, we all come together on Sundays to mentor the younger teams which lends to our Howell Robotics succession plan. While mentoring the younger teams, we embody the ideals and values of FIRST®, which will contribute to the younger members later teaching new members to do the same, spreading the purpose and goals of FIRST®.

S.C.O.T.S Bots makes it a priority to grow and learn from one another; be it a mentor to mentor, mentor to student or most importantly a student to student dynamic interaction.

Inspiration is what we strive for here at S.C.O.T.S. Bots. We make it our goal to inspire our community by doing outreach and have been doing so since our first season, Ultimate Ascent, when we won both the Rookie Inspiration and Rookie All-Star Awards. This includes activities such as hosting STEM events at our local library to inspire young engineers, helping deliver meals to homebound senior citizens through Meals on Wheels, volunteering at various community events in downtown Howell and our STEM Sister program. While volunteering at events, we include all our K-12 teams, showing the community the FIRST® family we have built and grown and continue to sustain by inspiring others to be a part of such an opportunity. To inspire female students to be empowered and pursue robotics we have created an all women's group called STEM Sisters. With members from multiple local teams who participate in activities such as a self-defense class, working with local girl scout troops to create STEM projects and experiments, to having women in the STEM field come and talk to our group to inspire us for what lies ahead.

One of the main concepts of FIRST® is Gracious Professionalism. Gracious Professionalism places an emphasis on respect and kindness in a professional sense, while still competing against one another. It is stressed in many ways at all FIRST® events and within our own team dynamics. One way S.C.O.T.S. Bots shows our own Gracious Professionalism is by helping other teams and FIRST® community members. Members of our program have volunteered at more than 30 FIRST® events, providing many volunteers to help run the events. For the six Howell events we hosted we supplied over 100 volunteers for each competition. S.C.O.T.S Bots has financially supported other rookie teams by donating money and providing fundraising opportunities. We continue to mentor various teams by providing documents and mentor to mentor communication. We reach across the county to build comradery with other local teams by hosting joint kickoff events and sharing our available resources such as our machine shop. Because we have won UL Safety Awards five times over three different seasons, during the Steamworks season we felt it our duty to go from team to team in the pits to inquire how we could assist each team and provided safety check-ups such as first aid kits and fire extinguisher tests. We do this because we want to be an example of FIRST® values; and because of doing this, our peers nominated us for the Gracious Professionalism Award last season, which we won.

Teamwork is essential in both the FIRST® community and in our team. S.C.O.T.S. Bots has no application process and is open to anyone who wants to join from inside or outside of the Howell School District. In addition to our no application process we also have a scholarship fund to support those students who cannot afford the membership fee. These funds are gathered by team fundraisers like Quatermainia. We work together to be all-inclusive and welcoming. We promote teamwork at Howell by having our older FRC students mentor our FTC and FLL teams on Sundays. Working together helps to strengthen our program and provide long term sustainability for our FRC team. We want to bring up as many kids as we can through the FIRST® Robotics program. Winning the Spirit Award during the Aerial Assist season helps inspire our team to pull together. Teamwork is also a skill we teach in our summer young engineers club for local elementary students. We teach the young engineers classes at the library over the summer where we present problems and teach the kids how to solve them together using engineering, problem solving, teamwork and outside the box thinking. These programs have also led to an increase enrollment in our FLL and Jr. FLL teams. Being able to work with the younger teams and our FIRST® Alumni gives us the chance to learn from our past mistakes while helping fix new ones. Being active in our local community helps to raise awareness for STEM programs and to keep the S.C.O.T.S. Bot team sustainable.

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Sponsorships are an important part of sustaining S.C.O.T.S. Bots. We focus on connecting students with the business world and giving every student an opportunity to secure a sponsorship. This year we hosted our first sponsorship workshop for our team; teaching team members how to reach out to businesses and receive sponsorships. Building business relationships and attaining a sponsorship in-place of paying the team fee is just one way we try to make robotics available to everyone and introduce FIRST® to our community partners. We also like to connect with our sponsors for opportunities such as internships, workshops and inviting our sponsors to attend our events. This has laid the groundwork for two of our students to receive internships at Chem-Trend, one of our local sponsors. We work to involve our sponsors in the community and fully submerge them into the world of FIRST® robotics. Due to our students entrepreneurial and business skills we have won the Entrepreneur Award twice in the past two years.

Scholarship opportunities are provided in abundance to our students. We send out a weekly scholarship list to all our FRC students, resulting in more than \$200,000 in scholarships to our alumni. Mentors provide knowledge and advice to students looking to pursue higher education. Our mentors guide students all the way through the process. They advise students on how to pick the right career, apply to college, apply for all available scholarships and much more! They also continue to work with students even after graduation by providing connections to businesses and jobs while also encouraging them to stay involved in the program by mentoring younger teams and volunteering at events.

Risk taking is a chance you have to take in order to succeed. Here at S.C.O.T.S. BOTS we encourage our students to take calculated, educated risks that lead to success both on and off the playing field. Next year we are taking a risk by moving each team into its own school with the recent approval of a teacher liaison for each school in the district as approved by the Howell Board of Education at the January 19, 2018 meeting. We hope that by doing this we can encourage the growth of the program by making it available to more students. Along with expanding inside our district we like to reach out locally. Last year we worked with Engineers Without Borders to develop a latrine prototype that was implemented in El Salvador. A consistent risk that S.C.O.T.S. Bots likes to take is helping other teams even if it helps them to win. Last year during the Steamworks season we helped fix another team's robot, allowing them to come back and succeed in later matches. This year during the Power Up season, our team is developing a new scouting app along with Hartland that will help both teams during the upcoming events. This is a risk we are willing to take because it helps FIRST® as a whole and its shows gracious professionalism; which is something S.C.O.T.S. Bots values immensely.

S.C.O.T.S. Bots is a dynamic program that is proud to be part of the FIRST® family and works to educate our community about FIRST®, our shared values and the importance of STEM. We would like to thank our sponsors, mentors and parents for helping make S.C.O.T.S. Bots the best team possible. We will continue to strengthen our FIRST® program here in Howell, teaching the community about the program and our values. S.C.O.T.S. Bots is proud to be part of the FIRST® Robotics family and never wants to stop working to make the world a better place.